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EPISTLE

TO

FRIENDS in *Great Britain*,

To whom is the Salutation of my Love, in the
unchangeable TRUTH.

DEAR FRIENDS,



FEELING my Mind drawn towards you
at this Time, in a particular manner,
with tender Desires and Breathings to
the Father of all our Mercies, for the whole
Family and Household of Faith, in which I
find myself measurably present in Spirit amongst
you; and considering, that the Lord was pleased
first to cause the everlasting Gospel to be sounded
forth from amongst you, according to its primi-
tive Purity, after a long and dark Night of
Apostacy, to the awakening of many who had
long been in the Sleep of Death, and buried in
the Grave of Sin and carnal Security; I cannot
but conclude, that as the Eyes of many are on
you, to behold your good Conduct as Lights in
the World, that much lies at your Doors, as
being

being some of the First-fruits unto God in these latter Ages ; and therefore do the more earnestly press upon you, the great Necessity of keeping low and humble in Mind and Spirit, that thereby you may witness a being guided in true Judgment, and be enabled truly to say, *Follow us, as we follow Christ.*

And as it was nothing but the pure and simple Truth, that first gathered us to be a People, which alone is sufficient to uphold and preserve us such, to the Praise of God, who hath called us to *Glory and Virtue* ; I do in much Love intreat, that we may all bow in true Reverence and Stilness of Mind and Spirit before the Lord, that he may be pleased to preserve us from all Mixtures of our own Wills, Spirits, or Wisdom, in the Promotion of his good Cause, either in the *Ministry*, or *Discipline of the Church* ; remembering, that *his Altar must not be built with hewn Stone* ; and if we lift up our Tool upon it, we pollute it ; and if we go up by Steps of our own contriving, our Nakedness will be discover'd thereon.

Exod. xx.
25, 26.

As the Cross of Christ was the Beauty and Cloathing of our worthy Ancestors, in the Morning of this blessed Day of God's spiritual Appearance, let all those who profess the Truth, be careful not to cast off the Cross, which crucifies to the World, and the World to us ; that we may be preserved from ever attempting to build again, that which our Predecessors found

found themselves under a Necessity to destroy, lest thereby we make ourselves Transgressors; but may always manifest ourselves to be the true Children of the Faithful, by doing the Works, or walking in the Footsteps of the Righteous, so that the Lord may not refuse to be called our God, but may *build for us a City, whose Walls and Bulwarks shall be Salvation.*

Thus, my dear Brethren and Sisters, let us with one Heart and Mind, look with a single Eye to the *Rock that begat us*, that we may be preserved from ever entering again into the *Pit from whence our Fathers were digged*: And as it was the Concern of their Minds, in great Humiliation to be found in the Practice of true Patience, Resignation and Plainness, as became such who professed themselves to be Seekers of *that City which hath Foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God*; let us not sit down short of the same Engagement of Heart, lest the Love of this World, and the present Enjoyments thereof, should so far prevail in any of us, as to cause us to become careless in our Minds; from whence a *Laodicean Lukewarmness* will proceed, and we shall be in Danger of becoming *conformed to this World*, instead of being *transformed by the renewing of our Mind*. Deut. xxxii. 18. Isa. li. 1.

I am well satisfied that we, as a People, are deeply indebted to the Most High, for the Labour and Pains he hath bestowed upon us,
both

both immediately, and by instrumental Means ;
 and doubt not but there are many painful and
 faithful Labourers amongst you, who are fer-
 vently engaged for the Welfare of *Sion*, whose
 Labour of Love I much honour and prefer ;
 yet do not find myself excused, without casting
 in my Mite with my Brethren and Sisters ;
 hoping, that from the Consideration of the
 Remoteness of my outward Situation, my small
 Labour may have somewhat more Weight
 among my Friends.

And now, *dear Friends*, having endeavoured
 to convey to you, some plain and honest Hints
 of that ardent Desire which is revived in my
 Heart, for your Preservation in the Truth, and
 the Growth and Prosperity thereof in all, I
 conclude with Breathings to the Lord, that he
 may be pleased to bless, with his divine Favour,
 his Seed sown among you, and multiply the
 Fruits of Righteousness, Love, and true Peace,
 unto the Praise and Honour of his own Name,
 and your everlasting Comfort and Consolation ;
 and remain your Friend

24 MAR 59

THOMAS NICHOLSON.

Little River in North
 Carolina, the 15th
 of the Ninth Month
 1762.